



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending July 20, 2008

Issued weekly, April-November

Released July 21, 2008, 4 pm

This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Excellent week for Field Work: The weather conditions throughout the state were once again hot and dry. The sunny days allowed farmers to work 6 days in the field last week. Even though the conditions were right for field work, the farmers still would appreciate additional rain, as 42% of the topsoil was short or very short on moisture. Principal farm activities included picking apples and peaches, cutting and baling hay and straw, planting double crop soybeans, topping tobacco, mowing weeds, as well as harvesting barley and wheat.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 20, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
9	33	56	2

Crops: The corn condition declined last week. Sixty-seven percent of the crop is in good or excellent condition, compared to the previous week's 76%. Seven percent of the corn is estimated as poor or very poor condition. The state's corn is estimated as 42% tasseled. The corn continued to have good growth last week, as the average height grew from 52 to 66 inches. Soybean condition also declined last week from 75 to 59 percent good and excellent. Six percent of the soybeans were rated as poor or very poor. The state's soybean emergence is nearing completion at 97 percent emerged, which is 3 percentage points behind last year and 2 points behind the five year average. Ninety-nine percent of the wheat is ripe, which is 1 point behind last year, and 5 points above the average. The wheat harvest progress continues strong with 85% of the state's wheat harvested, compared to last year's 91% and the average of 73%. Barley harvest is nearing completion as 98 percent of the barley is harvested. This can be compared to the previous year's 99 percent and the average of 96 percent. Oat condition declined slightly, with 76 percent of the oats in good or excellent condition compared to the previous week's 80 percent. Seventy-one percent of the oats are turning yellow, which is 14 points below this time last year, and 7 points below average. Eighteen percent of the oats are now ripe, compare to last year's 24 percent, and the average of 23 percent. The oat harvest has begun, with 7 percent now harvested, which is 1 point ahead of last year and the average. The second cutting of alfalfa is 86 percent complete, which is 5 points behind last year, and 16 points above the average. Alfalfa third cutting continues and shows to be 18% completed. The timothy clover stand condition improved and is at 80 percent good or excellent. The first cutting of timothy clover is estimated to be 97 percent complete. This is 1 point behind last year and 5 points ahead of the average. The second cutting of timothy clover is 23% completed. The quality of hay improved and is at 66 percent good or excellent, with 6 percent rated as poor. Peaches are in good condition, as 93 percent are rated as good or excellent. The peach harvest is 13 percent completed, compared with 13 percent last year, and a 17 percent average. The apple condition improved to 83 percent good or excellent.

Livestock: Fifty-one percent of the state's pastures were estimated to be in good or excellent condition, which is 14 points less than last week. Fourteen percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 4% very poor, 10% poor, 35% fair, 39% good, and 12% excellent.

U.S. as of July 13, 2008: Heavy rain continued to soak parts of the Midwest, maintaining adequate to excessive soil moisture reserves for vegetative to reproductive summer crops. The heavy rain also triggered some renewed flooding. Meanwhile in the Southeast, highly variable amounts of rainfall aided drought-stressed pastures and rain-fed summer crops. Across the nation's mid-section, the winter wheat harvest neared completion. In the West, dry weather in most areas was contrasted with the stormy conditions in the Southwest. Meanwhile, a return to hot weather hampered wildfire containment efforts in northern and central California. An early- to mid-week heat wave boosted temperatures as much as 10 degrees F above normal in California and the western Great Basin, but readings averaged within a few degrees of normal across the remainder of the nation. Early in the week, locally heavy rain ended in the East. Elsewhere, beneficial showers dotted the Southeast. Late in the week, rainfall increased across the southern Atlantic region. In the West, early- to mid-week heat resulted in several record highs. Cool air settled across the Northwest toward week's end

Corn: Corn at or beyond silking reached 13 percent complete, 37 points behind last year and 23 points behind the 5-year average. Developmental delays continue in the Corn Belt, where many areas received more than 4 inches of rain during the week. Outside of the Corn Belt, silking progress was ahead of the normal pace in Colorado, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. Despite the developmental delays, the condition of the crop continued to improve. By week's end, 64 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, 2 percentage points better than a week earlier.

Soybeans: Twenty-six percent of the soybean acres were at or beyond the blooming stage, 28 points behind last year and 19 points behind the 5-year average. Progress was lagging in all States except Michigan and Mississippi where ideal weather conditions have allowed the crop to bloom ahead of the 5-year average pace. Soybean condition ratings remained at 59 percent good to excellent, unchanged from last week.

Winter Wheat: Producers had reaped 62 percent of the Nation's wheat acreage by week's end, 5 points behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest progress trailed the average pace in most States.

Oats: Oat acreage was 93 percent headed, 5 points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Ten percent of the crop was harvested by week's end, 3 points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Condition of the crop was rated 61 percent good to excellent, a 5-point decline from the previous week's rating.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 20, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 20, 2008						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
Northwest													
Erie	88	59	76	5	0.45	2	11.31	-1.69	51	1,462	258	2,460	
Franklin	90	54	73	3	0.34	2	14.57	-0.66	56	1,266	115	2,263	
Meadville	86	54	73	5	0.09	1	14.47	-0.06	50	1,274	226	2,270	
Mercer	88	55	73	4	0.60	2	14.34	-0.23	59	1,235	90	2,239	
Springboro	88	53	72	1	0.80	2	17.85	4.90	53	1,165	-50	2,134	
Warren	89	53	72	2	1.26	2	14.80	-0.34	58	1,174	55	2,139	
North Central													
Bradford Region	83	46	67	2	1.46	4	13.66	-1.71	62	926	124	1,815	
Emporium	89	55	73	6	1.17	2	10.69	-4.92	57	1,233	329	2,222	
Kane	85	46	68	3	0.77	1	13.63	-1.79	55	901	109	1,790	
Laporte	83	56	71	1	1.80	2	15.22	0.75	60	1,104	-47	2,043	
Lock Haven	90	57	75	5	1.50	4	12.74	-1.30	53	1,415	184	2,440	
Port Allegany	86	50	69	3	0.42	2	11.08	-3.78	57	993	89	1,914	
Renovo	91	56	74	4	1.09	1	12.53	-1.51	47	1,382	151	2,398	
Ridgway	87	50	69	3	1.30	2	12.71	-2.90	56	994	90	1,929	
Stevenson Dam	91	55	72	6	0.47	2	11.30	-4.31	51	1,236	332	2,220	
Towanda	91	55	73	3	2.44	3	13.42	1.44	48	1,273	111	2,256	
Wellsboro	89	50	69	4	1.43	2	11.55	-0.57	58	1,010	165	1,930	
Williamsport	92	58	76	4	1.28	2	12.34	-1.75	50	1,559	189	2,608	
Northeast													
Hawley	90	52	73	5	0.97	3	11.75	-1.67	44	1,146	176	2,098	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	90	58	74	3	1.51	2	11.63	-1.52	49	1,435	135	2,437	
Susquehanna	89	55	72	5	2.72	2	13.79	-0.56	54	1,197	266	2,173	
West Central													
Butler	88	53	72	2	0.47	2	11.19	-3.16	66	1,205	5	2,221	
New Castle	93	55	75	4	0.26	2	10.98	-2.30	58	1,415	206	2,451	
Slippery Rock	90	53	72	4	0.62	2	13.35	-0.71	52	1,228	141	2,265	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	88	55	72	1	0.94	1	12.72	-0.44	55	1,395	90	2,407	
DuBois	84	54	71	2	0.74	1	13.11	-1.45	60	1,203	84	2,168	
Lewistown	93	58	76	4	0.57	1	15.16	1.02	46	1,475	42	2,495	
Middletown	93	63	79	4	0.96	1	13.97	0.23	43	1,761	134	2,825	
Prince Gallitzi	89	50	71	3	0.00	0	13.90	-2.70	51	1,123	99	2,096	
Selinsgrove	94	57	75	3	0.51	2	11.71	-2.42	43	1,449	114	2,468	
State College	90	60	75	5	0.23	2	14.27	1.27	47	1,461	174	2,484	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	94	58	77	3	1.06	2	12.28	-1.82	39	1,552	69	2,582	
Lehighton	91	57	75	2	1.41	2	11.52	-2.69	49	1,412	-9	2,427	
Matamoras	92	55	73	2	0.88	3	10.98	-3.97	48	1,235	-47	2,209	
Mt_Pocono	86	53	70	5	0.47	3	11.67	-3.93	51	1,088	248	2,023	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	89	59	74	3	0.00	0	14.03	0.22	49	1,545	234	2,599	
Derry	90	56	72	3	0.00	0	18.46	4.37	58	1,341	122	2,367	
Myersdale	87	48	67	-4	0.12	1	16.97	1.39	57	974	-212	1,923	
Mount Pleasant	87	53	71	3	0.12	1	17.17	1.31	54	1,313	239	2,352	
Pittsburgh Intl	88	58	74	2	0.04	1	13.01	0.08	51	1,512	134	2,564	
Connellsville	88	55	71	-2	0.21	1	20.01	4.77	59	1,470	61	2,523	
Waynesburg	88	55	71	0	0.04	1	18.75	4.72	50	1,311	43	2,351	
South Central													
Biglerville	93	60	77	2	0.77	1	16.32	3.70	45	1,604	3	2,647	
Everett	91	53	72	0	0.00	0	17.76	5.12	51	1,253	-22	2,255	
Hanover	92	57	77	2	0.97	1	15.16	2.54	49	1,594	-7	2,632	
Harrisburg_AP	92	59	78	2	1.02	1	12.11	-1.63	33	1,736	102	2,803	
South Mountain	87	54	72	1	0.40	1	18.64	5.48	55	1,252	-46	2,242	
York	91	57	76	1	1.75	1	16.48	2.48	49	1,663	67	2,722	
Southeast													
Green Lane	93	60	77	4	1.48	2	14.98	1.19	44	1,621	213	2,671	
Hamburg	94	59	78	6	0.78	2	10.73	-5.89	45	1,636	362	2,686	
West_Chester	94	58	77	2	0.43	1	11.50	-4.01	38	1,576	-7	2,613	
Lancaster	90	61	76	2	1.46	1	13.66	-0.73	45	1,577	94	2,620	
Neshaminy Falls	95	60	78	5	0.20	2	13.15	-2.84	40	1,643	164	2,695	
New Holland	93	62	78	4	1.72	1	14.90	0.51	41	1,677	194	2,727	
Philadelphia	96	68	81	5	0.15	2	10.45	-3.46	39	1,959	240	3,044	
Philadelphia NE	98	65	82	6	0.11	2	10.46	-3.45	43	2,044	325	3,132	
Reading	95	61	78	5	0.82	1	9.75	-5.56	46	1,723	272	2,775	
Valley Forge Na	94	58	76	-1	0.44	1	14.13	-0.29	42	1,549	-130	2,607	
Willow Grove	95	63	79	6	0.43	3	12.46	-3.53	47	1,744	265	2,808	

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

Copyright 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

Internet Reporters Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, H. Lee Showalter – There was no rain this past week in south-central Pennsylvania fruit areas, although there have been nearby storms.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy Behney (FSA) - Adams County had another hot week last week, with morning temps in the 70's and daytime temps into the high 80's and 90's. No rain fell until Sunday evening. Most of Adams County had enough rain to settle the dust. York Springs, Hunterstown and west of Littlestown had 0.2" of rain. Corn is growing in height and showing signs of drought with leaves rolling. Soybeans continue to be planted after wheat is harvested. Early soybeans are now looking pretty good, but could use some more rain. Wheat harvest is still ongoing. Wheat quality is being affected due to weather conditions, but good yields are being reported. Hay making continues. Most of the first cutting of mixed hay has been made, with some regrowth occurring. The hay could use more moisture. Fruit is looking good. Some early peaches and apples are being harvested. Apples appear to be a pretty good size for this time of the year. Sweet corn is now in tassel and growing in height. Other vegetables are coming into harvest season. Overall the crops are doing ok for now. We need some more rainfall to help the crops in the critical stages of making grain.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Very hot this week with only a few scattered showers. Last week was good for making hay and baling straw. In Franklin County, the wheat harvest is nearly over with reports of yields in excess of 80 bushels per acre. Average yield was 60+ bushels and excellent test weight. Pastures are showing stress from the heat and dry conditions in the southern part of the county. Peach harvest is getting underway and it appears that there will be a decent crop with good quality in most areas.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Rain has been very variable around the county. Some areas remain very dry which will cause the corn yields will suffer. A lot of corn was in tassel last week, and was trying to pollinate in 95 degree, very dry weather. Wheat yields were good for the most part. There was a report of 95 bushels/acre from one field. Soybeans have been sprayed and are starting to look better.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Activities last week included making hay, harvesting wheat, and spreading manure.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Last week was good for hay making, combining, only 1/2 inch rainfall for the week.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - We need rain. The corn is wilting during the day. Grasses are showing little growth.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) -Clarion, Venango, Forest and Warren Counties harvested many acres of dry hay last week. The quality is past its' prime on first cutting. 2nd and 3rd cutting made excellent hay. Leaf hopper is hitting the legume hay. There are reports of insect damage to the corn crop. The crop condition in the four counties overall are appearing good to excellent. Many acres of corn are tasseling, potatoes are blooming, and the early potatoes are ready to be harvested.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth, Jr. (NRCS) - Last week had good weather, and the crops are doing well. Activities included making hay, baling straw, topping tobacco, mowing weeds in pastures and harvesting peaches.

LYCOMING COUNTY, Michael Sherman (FSA) - Rain has been spotty with dry conditions reported in the southern part of the county. Crops received a much needed shot of precipitation this past week in most of the area. Corn is beginning to tassel in some locations. Soybeans do not look the best, with many of the fields very uneven. Oats will be ready to harvest soon. Wheat harvest is underway and reports of high yields are common.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Significant rainfall throughout the area during the week improved the crop conditions. The early corn is tasseling. The soybeans are in blossom and setting pods. Wheat harvest is near completion. Oats harvest has begun. Haymaking, harvesting and baling straw were the main activities for the week.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - The weekend rain will give the hay and the corn a boost.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Last week was the best harvest week of the season, with hot and dry conditions. However, with no rain since July 13 and the heat, we will need moisture soon. Excellent wheat yields are being reported. The early-planted corn is just starting to tassel. A lot of old first-cutting hay was made this week.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 20, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	42	48	42
Corn average height, inches	66	68	66
Barley, harvested	98	99	96
Wheat, ripe	99	100	94
Wheat, harvested	85	91	73
Oats, turning yellow	71	85	64
Oats, ripe	18	24	23
Oats, harvested	7	6	6
Soybeans, emerged	97	100	99
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	86	91	70
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	18	22	14
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	97	98	92
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	23	28	20
Peaches, harvested	13	13	17

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 20, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	6	26	46	21
Oats	1	1	22	59	17
Soybeans	0	6	35	48	11
Timothy clover stand	0	3	17	59	21
Quality of hay made	0	6	28	45	21
Pasture	4	10	35	39	12
Peaches	0	0	7	67	26
Apples	0	0	17	54	29

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

United States
 Department of Agriculture
 National Agricultural Statistics Service
 Pennsylvania Field Office
 2301 N Cameron St Room G-19
 Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

FIRST-CLASS MAIL POSTAGE & FEES PAID USDA PERMIT NO. G-38
--